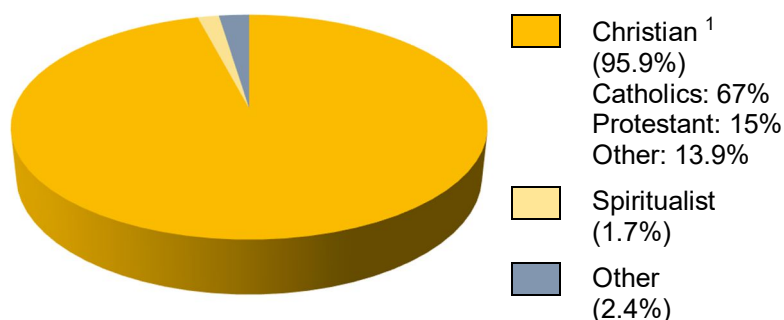
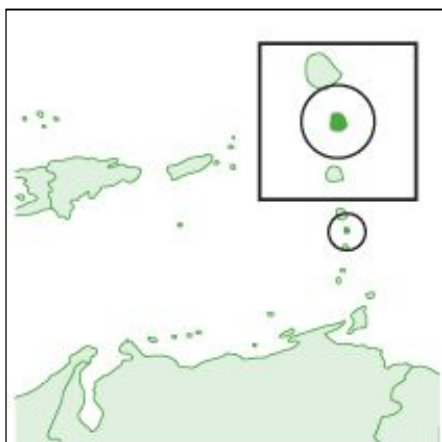


SAINT LUCIA



Area: 616 km ²	Population²: 178,000	Political system: Monarchy ³	Major Language(s): English
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Legal framework on freedom of religion and actual application

The preamble of the constitution states that the people of Saint Lucia affirm their faith in the supremacy of the Almighty God. It states that God has given to every individual inalienable rights and dignity. It recognises that the enjoyment of these rights depends upon certain fundamental freedoms, namely individual freedom of thought, expression, communication, conscience and of association.

It states that everyone has fundamental rights and freedoms, regardless of race, place of origin, birth, political opinions, colour, creed or sex, and that everyone, inter alia, is entitled to freedom of conscience, expression and association. There is a right to conscientious objection to military service.

No-one shall be hindered in the enjoyment of their freedom of conscience, including freedom of thought and religion, freedom to change their religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others, both in public and in private, to manifest and propagate their religion or belief.

No-one attending any place of education, detained in any prison or correctional institution or serving in a naval, military or air force shall be required to receive religious instruction or take part in or attend any religious ceremony or observance if that instruction, ceremony or observance relates to a religion that is not their own.

Religious communities shall be entitled, at their own expense, to establish and manage places of education.

No-one shall be compelled to take any oath that is contrary to their religion or belief or to take any oath in a manner which is contrary to their religion or belief.

Ministers of religion do not have the right to be Senators or Members of the Lower House.⁴

Incidents

Official government, local media, the Church or other religious groups have not reported any incidents of intolerance, discrimination or persecution on religious grounds.

Prospects for freedom of religion

Since there were no incidents during 2014-2016 compared to the previous period, it can be said that the prospects for the freedom of religion have improved.

¹http://www.thearda.com/internationalData/countries/Country_190_1.asp accessed on 16 March 2016.

² <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e491d56.html> accessed on 8 April 2016.

³ Saint Lucia is a constitutional monarchy with Queen Elizabeth II as head of state, represented by a Governor General. It is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations.

⁴ <http://www.govt.lc/constitution> accessed on 16 March 2016.